

**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) Program
2003 Prevention Outreach Plan**

Prevention Activity #1: Distribution of ATSDR's "Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents" Guidelines on CD-ROM to Missouri Hospitals with Emergency Treatment Facilities

Target Groups:

- Responders
- Medical care providers

Type of Prevention Activity:

- Primary – Increased knowledge and awareness of the potential for treating victims of hazardous substance releases enhances the hospitals' ability to provide expedient and appropriate treatment based on the substance(s) involved, thereby reducing the extent and severity of injuries and secondary contamination.

Justification:

During the period 1994-2001, over 250 individuals presented to a hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during a HSEES event. In light of the recent terrorist attacks and the potential for chemical terrorist events, it is extremely important for hospitals to have sufficient resources on hand in order to effectively recognize symptoms of chemical exposure and the chemical(s) which may have caused the symptoms, and to treat individuals accordingly. While this information is available on the Internet, it is very important that this information be made available on-site due to the possibility that hospital staff may not be able to access the Internet due to increased traffic or cyber-terrorist attacks.

Description of Activity:

These guidelines will be sent on CD-ROM to all Missouri hospitals with emergency treatment facilities. The CD-ROMs will be reproduced by the DHSS using state funds. Information will also be sent to all hospitals regarding the HSEES program. This activity will ensure that hospitals have additional resources available to develop emergency preparedness plans, in addition to treatment guidelines for those patients exposed to hazardous materials included in the medical management guidelines.

Collaborators:

- Missouri Hospital Association
- Missouri hospitals with emergency treatment facilities

Effectiveness Measure:

This activity will result in an increased awareness of the HSEES program in hospitals, and will enhance the resources available to appropriately respond to patients presenting for treatment as a result of exposure to hazardous substances.

Date Activity is to be Completed: June 30, 2003

Prevention Activity #2: Quarterly Reports, 10 counties with highest number of events, 1999-2001

Target Groups:

- Emergency medical response personnel
- Professional and volunteer firefighters
- Police departments
- Emergency management organizations
- Emergency first responders
- Health care providers
- Local public health agencies

Type of Prevention Activity:

- Primary – Increased awareness of chemical hazards will promote safer handling and transportation procedures.
- Secondary – Information provided to emergency management officials, first responders, medical personnel, and health departments will enable them to minimize casualties and treat victims.

Justification:

This activity was conducted in 2000 and 2001. A survey was sent with the third quarter, 2001 report to determine how beneficial these reports are to the agencies that receive them, what information should be included that is not currently provided, what information is not considered helpful, and whether or not the majority of agencies feel this activity should be continued. A report of the survey results is included on pages 5 through 7 of this document.

Description of Activity:

Quarterly reports summarizing information such as the number of events per county, risk factors, and trends will be developed for the ten counties that have the highest five-year total for number of events. These reports will be distributed to the county emergency management director, Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), county and local fire and police departments, area hospitals, local public health agencies, and other interested parties.

Collaborators:

Emergency management directors, county and local fire and police departments, area hospitals and local public health agencies in the identified counties will be encouraged to contact the HSEES program with information relating to hazardous substance emergency events. This will increase the number and types of reporting sources for surveillance information.

Effectiveness Measure:

This activity will be considered effective if a decrease of 10 percent or more is noted in the number of events by county for the top 10 counties in 2004.

Date Activity is to be Completed: Each quarterly summary will be distributed within 30 days of the close of the reporting quarter, i.e., January-March due April 30; April-June due July 30; July-September due October 30; and October-December due January 30, 2004.

Prevention Activity #3: 2002 Event Summary Reports by County

Target Groups:

- Responders
- Emergency management organizations
- Medical care providers
- Local public health agencies
- Facilities/employees
- Members of the general public

Type of Prevention Activity:

- Primary – Increased awareness of hazardous substance emergency events will promote safer handling and will lead to more effective responses to hazardous releases.
- Secondary – Enhanced availability of data to responders, medical care providers, health agencies, and the general public will help these individuals minimize the morbidity and mortality that result from hazardous substance releases.

Justification:

Quarterly reports have been developed for the ten counties with the highest number of events during the five-year data analysis period (1994-1998) during calendar year 2000 as outlined in the FFY'2000 Prevention Outreach Plan (Activity #2). Individuals and agencies from counties not included in the top ten have expressed an interest in having this same type of data available to them. Because the HSEES program is staffed with only one person, it is not feasible to produce quarterly reports for all Missouri counties; however, it is possible to produce annual reports in order to distribute current information within each county.

Description of Activity:

Reports summarizing 2002 event data, such as the number of events per county, substances released, injuries, evacuations and "interesting events", will be developed and distributed to the above target groups. The reports will be available to facilities and members of the general public through the HSEES web site. Links to the reports will be included on the Department of Health's "Community Data Profile" web page for each county.

Collaborators:

- Department of Public Safety (provided police and fire department data)
- Missouri Emergency Response Commission (provided emergency management organization data)
- Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (provided facility data for the survey mailing list)

Effectiveness Measure:

This activity will be considered effective if a decrease of 10 percent or more is noted statewide in the number of events and the number of injuries during calendar year 2002. The number of "hits" made on the web site will also measure effectiveness. The number of collaborative relationships with the target groups listed should increase significantly as a result of this activity.

Date Activity is to be Completed: Within 60 days after the 2002 data is finalized by ATSDR.

Prevention Activity #4: Missouri Hospital Needs Assessment – Chemical Preparedness

Target Groups:

- Missouri hospitals with emergency treatment facilities

Type of Prevention Activity:

- Primary – Increased knowledge and awareness of the potential for treating victims of hazardous substance releases, and the supplies, equipment and facilities necessary for such treatment, enhances the hospitals' ability to provide expedient and appropriate treatment based on the substance(s) involved, thereby reducing the extent and severity of injuries and secondary contamination.

Justification:

During the period 1994-2001, over 250 individuals presented to a hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during a HSEES event. In light of the recent terrorist attacks and the potential for chemical terrorist events, it is extremely important for hospitals to have adequate supplies, equipment and facilities to treat and decontaminate patients who present with symptoms of exposure to a hazardous substance.

Description of Activity:

The Missouri HSEES program will collaborate with the Missouri Hospital Association on the hospital needs assessment that is being developed for Missouri's hospitals with emergency treatment facilities. One specific area of the needs assessment will ascertain the hospital's ability to treat patients presenting with symptoms of chemical exposure with regard to equipment, decontamination and isolation areas, resources and guidelines for treatment, etc. Data from the needs assessment will be collected by the Missouri Hospital Association and shared with DHSS and the HSEES program.

Collaborators:

- Missouri Hospital Association
- Missouri hospitals with emergency treatment facilities

Effectiveness Measure:

This activity will be considered effective if hospitals with emergency treatment facilities become better prepared and equipped to treat patients presenting for treatment of symptoms resulting from exposure to a hazardous substance. This will be demonstrated by a decrease in or absence of reported injuries sustained by hospital personnel, as well as a decrease in or absence of events resulting from secondary contamination, due to insufficient planning and/or resources. The effectiveness of this activity cannot truly be measured until a hospital's emergency preparedness plan is utilized in an actual event.

Date Activity is to be Completed: June 30, 2003